

C2
Cont'd
P3
Cont'd

a devolving unit devolving the right to use the contents of the first storage unit to the second storage unit by generating a second use information, which represents a second right to use the contents devolved from the first storage unit to the second storage unit, and encrypting the key and the second use information with the second storage ID to generate a second encryption secure information stored in said second storage unit.

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed April 12, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al. (US Patent No. 5,553,139) in view of Hasebe et al. (US Patent No. 5,392,351).

In the final Office Action mailed April 12, 2002, the Examiner noted that claims 1-8 were pending, and rejected claims 1-8. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error, new claim 9 has been added, and, thus, claims 1-9 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested.

The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed. No new matter has been added in this Amendment.

REJECTIONS

In page 9, item 5 of the Office Action the Examiner asserts that independent claims 1 and 8 do not recite the features relied upon by the Applicants in the previous Response of October 30, 2001 on pages 2-6, i.e., "devolving, the permission information from one recording medium to another recording medium or revising the permission information on a recording medium to another recording medium or revising the permission information on a recording medium responsive to use (consumption) of content/information being protected by the permission information."

However, the Examiner appears to be overlooking the recitation of the claims. The claims recite the term "devolved." To one skilled in the art, the recitation "devolved" as defined in dictionary means transference of rights to another and/or degeneration of rights. See Figs. 1-2; and page 16 to 18 of the present Application. See entry for "devolution" in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, online (copy attached).

Using the recitation of claim 1 as an example, in contrast to Ross et al. and Hasebe et al. the present invention provides "a second use information, representing a second right to use the

contents that is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium" (emphasis added). More particularly, the recitation, "a second use information, representing a second right to use the contents that is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium" is the relied upon feature patentably distinguishing over Ross and Hasebe.

NEW CLAIM

New independent claim 9 provides an alternative recitation of the present invention in non-means-plus-function format, as follows:

9. (NEW) A license devolution system in communication with computer readable storages, comprising:

an access unit accessing a first storage unit having a first storage ID and storing contents encrypted with a predetermined key and storing a first encryption secure information generated by encrypting the key and a first use information, which represents a right to use the contents, with the first storage ID, and accessing a second storage unit having a second storage ID identifying the second storage unit;

a decoder decoding the first encryption secure information stored in said first storage unit using the first storage ID to obtain the key and the first use information; and

a devolving unit devolving the right to use the contents of the first storage unit to the second storage unit by generating a second use information, which represents a second right to use the contents devolved from the first storage unit to the second storage unit, and encrypting the key and the second use information with the second storage ID to generate a second encryption secure information stored in said second storage unit (emphasis added).

Support for the new claim can be found, for example, in Fig. 1, in paragraphs 33, 34, 44, and in Fig. 6 and description thereof in paragraphs 107-142 of the substitute specification. The "devolving unit" of new claim 9 can correspond to encryption means 22 in Fig. 1.

BENEFITS OF THE CLAIMED PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention can provide, for example, the following benefits: (1) giving the right of using content/information one hundred times, and prohibiting use of the content beyond one hundred times;(2) permitting free use of the content/information for one hundred times by any user; and (3) giving the right of using the content/information for fifty times out of the one

hundred in one computer and the right of using the content for the other fifty times in another computer.

CONCLUSION

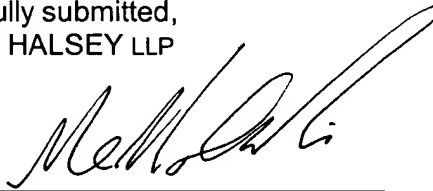
In view of the remarks herein, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 and allowance of claims 1-8 and new claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 is **AMENDED** as follows.

New claim 9 is **ADDED**.

Recitation of all pending claims is provided for reference convenience.

1. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus accessing a first storage medium storing contents encrypted with a predetermined key, a first media ID identifying the first storage medium, and a first encryption secure information generated by encrypting the key and a first use information, representing a right to use the contents, together with one another or individually, with the first media ID, and accessing a second storage medium storing a second media ID identifying the second storage medium, wherein the right of using the contents stored in said first storage medium is devolved from said first storage medium to said second storage medium, said license devolution apparatus comprising:

decoding means for decoding the first encryption secure information stored in said first storage medium using the first media ID to obtain the key and the first use information; and

encryption means for encrypting [with the second media ID] the key and a second use information, representing a second right to use the contents that is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium, together with one another or individually, with the second media ID, to generate a second encryption secure information for storage in said second storage medium.

2. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encryption means encrypts with the first media ID a third use information, obtained through subtracting the second use information from the first use information, or encrypts with the first media ID both the key and a third right of using, to generate a third encryption secure information and stores the third encryption secure information in the first storage medium.

3. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the entire rights of using the contents, to which the first storage medium is entitled, are devolved to the second storage medium, the first encryption secure information stored in the first storage medium is destroyed.

4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, wherein before devolution of the right to use contents, the first storage medium stores contents whose right to use is intended to be devolved as encrypted contents, and

wherein said license devolution apparatus further comprises contents transfer means for reading the encrypted contents from the first storage medium, and storing in the second storage medium the read encrypted contents.

5. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first use information and the second use information represent the presence of the right to use, and the third use information represents the absence of the right to use.

6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first use information represents a first available number of times or available time, the second use information represents a second available number of times or available time which is less than the first available number of times or available time, and the third use information represents a third available number of times or available time which is obtained through subtracting the second available number of times or available time from the first available number of times or available time.

7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first drive and a second drive driving the first storage medium and the second storage medium, respectively, said first drive and said second drive having a first firmware and second firmware accessing the first storage medium and the second storage medium, respectively,

wherein said decoding means and said encryption means are arranged in a firmware including said first firmware and said second firmware in form of a composite unit; and

wherein only said first firmware has authority to access the first storage medium driven by said first drive, and only said second firmware has authority to access the second storage medium driven by said second drive.

8. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A license devolution method, comprising

storing in a first storage medium contents encrypted with a predetermined key, a first media ID identifying the first storage medium, and encryption secure information generated by encrypting with the first media ID, the key and a first use information, which represents a right to use the contents;

decoding the first encryption secure information using the first media ID to obtain the key and the first use information;

generating a second encryption secure information by encrypting with a second media ID, which identifies a second storage medium, the key and a second use information, which represents a second right to use the contents that is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium; and

storing the second encryption secure information in said second storage medium, wherein the right to use the contents stored in the first storage medium is devolved from the first storage medium to the second storage medium.

9. (NEW) A license devolution system in communication with computer readable storages, comprising:

an access unit accessing a first storage unit having a first storage ID and storing contents encrypted with a predetermined key and storing a first encryption secure information generated by encrypting the key and a first use information, which represents a right to use the contents, with the first storage ID, and accessing a second storage unit having a second storage ID identifying the second storage unit;

a decoder decoding the first encryption secure information stored in said first storage unit using the first storage ID to obtain the key and the first use information; and

a devolving unit devolving the right to use the contents of the first storage unit to the second storage unit by generating a second use information, which represents a second right to use the contents devolved from the first storage unit to the second storage unit, and encrypting the key and the second use information with the second storage ID to generate a second encryption secure information stored in said second storage unit.



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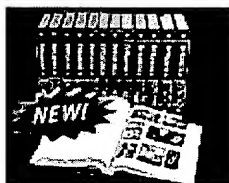


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One entry found for **devolution**.

Main Entry: **de vo lu tion** 🗣️

Pronunciation: "de-v&- 'lū-sh&n also "dE-v&-

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Medieval Latin *devolution-*, *devolutio*, from Latin *devolvere*

Date: 1545

1 : transference (as of rights, powers, property, or responsibility) to another; *especially* : the surrender of powers to local authorities by a central government

2 : retrograde evolution : **DEGENERATION**

- **de vo lu tion ary** 🗣️ /-sh&- "ner-E/ *adjective*

- **de vo lu tion ist** 🗣️ /-sh(&-)nist/ *noun*

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Pronunciation Symbols

\&\ as a and u in abut

\&\ as e in kitten

\&r\ as ur/er in further

\a\ as a in ash

\A\ as a in ace

\e\ as e in bet

\E\ as ea in easy

\g\ as g in go

\i\ as i in hit

\I\ as i in ice

\o\ as aw in law

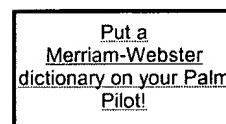
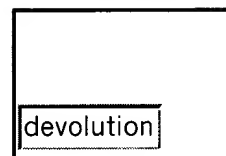
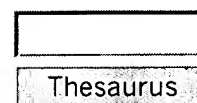
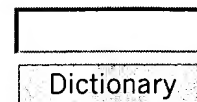
\oi\ as oy in boy

\th\ as th in thin

\[th]\ as th in the

\ü\ as oo in loot

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\ch\ as ch in chin

\j\ as j in job
\[ng]\ as ng in sing
\O\ as o in go

\u\ as oo in foot
\y\ as y in yet
\zh\ as si in vision

For more information see the [Guide To Pronunciation](#).

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